

*To His Grace the Duke of Chandos*  
*From the Author*

*10806. cc. 2*

A THANKSGIVING  
S E R M O N,

ON OCCASION OF  
His MAJESTY's  
LATE HAPPY ESCAPE,

FROM THE DANGEROUS AND ALARMING ATTEMPT  
AGAINST HIS LIFE.

Preached in the Parish Church  
OF

HINXWORTH, HERTS.

On SUNDAY, the 20th. of AUGUST, 1786;

*The Revd*

By Sir ADAM GORDON, BART. *R*  
A M. A.

RECTOR of the said PARISH;

And CHAPLAIN to His Grace the Duke of  
C H A N D O S.

*The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the office of the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, since the last meeting of the Society, on the 1st of January, 1851.*

A THANKSGIVING  
SERMON  
ON OCCASION OF  
HIS MAJESTY  
LATE HENRY  
THE FOURTH  
PREACHED IN THE PARISH CHURCH



BY ADAM GORDON  
RECTOR OF THE PARISH  
AND CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN  
CHRIST CHURCH



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*To His Grace the Duke of Chandos*  
*A From the Author*

S E R M O N

PREACHED ON OCCASION OF A

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING

TO

A L M I G H T Y G O D,

FOR THE

HAPPY DELIVERANCE

OF OUR

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

From the late dangerous and detestable

ATTEMPT AGAINST HIS LIFE.

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2. F. R. M. O. N.

RECEIVED ON OCCASION OF A

PUBLIC TRANSGIVING

TO

ALMIGHTY GOD.

FOR THE

HAPPY DELIVERANCE



MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

From the late dangers and dangers

ATTEMPT AGAINST HIS LIFE.

## DEDICATORY PREFACE.

TO

DEAR SIR,

**I** AM induced to present the following humble performance to *you*, from two reasons: first, because I am sensible it is upon a subject you have much at heart, which, under the serious suspense of the event, that gave rise to this effort, must have caused you the most poignant anxiety; and because the regular discharge of this task, necessarily encouraged a detail of sentiments, that I apprehend are consonant with your own way of thinking upon the subject.

iv DEDICATORY PREFACE.

To whom can I, with more propriety, address a discourse of this nature, than to one, who has shewn so pure an attachment to the rights and interest\* of the illustrious personage, whose escape and safety, are gratefully and sincerely, the motives of this undertaking. The intimate knowledge of your spirited and successful assiduity in that public and important cause, which so deservedly distinguished our county; and in which, I had the honor and satisfaction to unite my best endeavours, farther secures my hopes, that this will not be an unacceptable present to you: but what it wants in merit, from the *order* and *manner* of its execution, must be supplied by the value of the *other* motive which prompted me to make you its patron; and that, is the impulse of private friendship;—and the only opportunity I may ever have of testifying a just sense of your obliging and considerate attention to my interest, upon a particular occasion, which, eventually, might have been propitious to my future comforts:

in



## DEDICATORY PREFACE. v

in which case, they must have originated in your native readiness of mind, and activity of conduct, no less, than in the most kind, and neighbourly good-will.

It is incumbent upon me now, to offer some apology for the abundant deficiencies I fear you will discover in this performance; but your candor, I am sure, will afford me ample indulgence, when I assure you that the whole was fabricated, and written fair, under the disadvantage of a very slow convalescence, from two recent and successive bodily complaints, interrupted by the daily and unrelaxed attention to the improvement of my pupil; and that the propriety of my delivering the Sermon, on my *first* appearance at church, (on account of the time that had elapsed since the alarming event) allowed me only one week for the preparation. I am equally secure in a proportionable allowance for the inconvenience of my not being able to attend to the publication



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of the few copies I have had printed, and the delay *that* has unavoidably occasioned.

In the management of the political part, I am indebted chiefly to the immediate suggestions of my own unbiassed and humble opinion of what constitutes the spirit of our government, and the real happiness of the people: I believe they will be found consistent with the principles of the soundest writers upon the subject, though I had no leisure for a critical reference to books, for the support of my assertions; I shall esteem myself, therefore, highly indebted to your friendship for any emendations that may strike you as proper; or to erase any errors, that involuntarily, may have escaped me.

I am well aware, that if this hasty test of professional exertion was sufficiently correct to meet the face of the public, I should lay open to the virulence of that swarm of wasps, ever on the wing to hunt down, and wound, whatever

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whatever they find obnoxious to their own pernicious nature; but as I had only in view, to discharge an irresistible call of duty, and having done the best my slender powers will admit, (under the particular impediments I have mentioned) to satisfy those under my charge, of the blessings we all have experienced, and the happiness of being under such an administration as the present; I retire with due resignation to my undisturbed obscurity, and to the labors of my official and domestic engagements.

I beg you to believe, that it would make me unfeignedly happy to hear of any pleasing change in your situation, in consequence of an honest zeal, and indefatigable industry in your country's service, which must await you in due season. I attribute it to the distance of my residence, that I heard nothing of the loyal and becoming measure adopted by our county, but in the papers; however unequal I might have been to the

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journey, at that particular period, I should most gladly have attended upon so pleasing an occasion.

With my best wishes for your welfare, and an uninterrupted success in all your pursuits, I remain with great regard,

Dear S I R,

Your faithful Friend,

and obedient

Humble Servant,

*Adam Gordon.*

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PSAL. xx. Part of Ver. 6.

NOW KNOW I, THAT THE LORD SAVETH  
HIS ANOINTED.

THE words of the text clearly imply these two points of doctrine; that in some instances, a more than ordinary interposition of Providence may be deduced, from observing the *circumstances* of a deliverance: "Now KNOW I;" and that the safety of Kings is peculiarly signified, to be the object of God's care. "The Lord SAVETH HIS ANOINTED." I shall have abundant opportunity to evince the truth of both, in the particular application of them to the subject of my present discourse.

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I cannot introduce my return amongst you with greater propriety, from this place, than by an act of public praise to Almighty God, for the late happy instance we have experienced, of his merciful Providence, in the extraordinary preservation of our most gracious Sovereign. A thanksgiving, in which all present, I am sure, will heartily join me, as such a deliverance must excite the purest exultation in the breast of every loyal subject, of every lover of his country, independent of those private sensations of humanity, which the danger of so eminent a personage, and so upright a character, must naturally occasion. Let us then adopt the advice of the prophet, by “ offering sacrifices of a  
“ sweet savour unto the God of heaven, and  
“ praying for the life of the King and his  
“ sons\*.” And as no offering is more acceptable to our heavenly Father than thanksgiving, for he declareth, that “ whoso  
“ giveth him thanks, he honoreth him”—  
So none is more easy for us to present; nor can we be excuseable if we withhold it.

Christian charity will lead us to hope, that the desperate attack upon so valuable a life,

\* Ezra vi, 10.



was the effect of insanity in the wretched object who attempted it, rather than any instigation of evil counsel. A machination so truly diabolical, can hardly be supposed to find abettors in a state like ours, and under *such* a reign. In a land where such universal liberty of conscience is indulged, it could not originate in the blind or furious zeal of any religious pretenders: there is no probable foundation for the surmise; for it has been objected by some, that even too tolerant a spirit prevails: and so celebrated is our constitution by many writers, for its adherence to freedom of every kind, that the very existence of *party* in this country, has been supposed to flow from no malignant source, but from this patriotic vigilance alone.

Happy should I be, if there was no cause for one exception to this remark; and before I proceed to the more immediate purport of my discourse, it cannot be foreign to its general design, slightly to touch upon *every* recent escape and blessing we have received; and also, by a compendious sketch of those springs which gave motion to the ruinous machine in former times, to intimate what  
similar

similar mischiefs might have threatened us, had so grievous a calamity taken place, as the loss of our Royal Master, at this period.

The short-lived effort of that long dormant hydra, which faintly strove to spread its *levelling* poison, is of too late date to need a fuller explanation; which would have endangered our admired model of government, by weakening the pillars on which alone the fabric can subsist: and had the unnatural monster met success in the pursuit of its designs, the tree itself could not long have survived the loss of those branches, at which its rage seemed levelled—whose preservation are so essential to its vital growth: all the miserable consequences of anarchy must have succeeded, and a slavish submission to that confused authority, which an abundant variety of characters and tempers, actuated by heterogeneous principles, would necessarily have produced, in the room of the approved and happy legislature we now enjoy.

Now, for the innumerable benefits and blessings we are indebted to the care of heaven, it is among the greatest, that this rash and alarming experiment was defeated: that we are blessed with a Prince, who being  
born

born and educated in this country, does intimately comprehend the essence of the constitution, has all the strongest ties to endear him to it, and was endued with wisdom, fortitude, and a paternal spirit, to protect it.

There is that agreement or affinity, in the nature and connection of human affairs, which renders the progress and success of particular systems more practicable in some states than others: as far, therefore, as any change may be accounted for upon worldly principles abstractedly, or is affected by a coincidence of human actions, it may be confidently asserted, (from experience of melancholy memory, as to the attempt) that ours is not a soil suited to the cultivation of republican enterprizes: the natural reason for this happy disagreement seems ingrafted in the origin and growth of our constitution, which, every one versed in the regular study of English history, can be at no loss to account for.

Under the heavy visitation indeed of heaven, for the enormous iniquities of our ancestors, in those times to which I allude, a temporary revolution, was in truth permitted, upon principles inimical to the established

blished government of the country: de-  
 plorable were the public grievances the  
 struggle produced; and marked on one side  
 with every thing that is unjust, unprece-  
 dented, and horrible. But when the Al-  
 mighty, in mercy, suspended his vengeance,  
 that unnatural system came to nought; nor  
 did it long subsist under the united support  
 of prevailing party, uncommon genius, un-  
 daunted fortitude, and the whole train of in-  
 ferior arts and engines that were employed  
 to prolong its reign; not power and violence  
 together, neither of which were left untried,  
 could ought avail. Nay, the very character,  
 whose profound hypocrisy, treachery, and  
 craft, had been so prosperously employed in  
 effecting the ruinous change, and lending it  
 apparent permanency, when no longer in-  
 strumental to the inscrutable purposes of the  
 Supreme, is known to have inclined *himself*  
 to a quite contrary authority from what he  
 had been thought to prefer; and had ren-  
 dered *that* system accessary to the most de-  
 spotic sway, which loudly, but falsely boasts,  
 the reputation of quite contrary principles:  
 and, if the divine goodness had not con-  
 founded his designs, he would have settled  
 himself



himself in possession of a dignity which he had exhausted every wile to degrade and annihilate; in the violent discharge of a power, the just execution of which constitutes the beauty and perfection of government, no less than it tends to the happiness of the subject. So inconsistent, so destructive, are the pursuits of inordinate ambition, and the counsels of wicked men: so abortive were the ultimate aims of that crafty, designing, and enterprising phenomenon of lawless usurpation: to such a pitch of danger, had the blindness and infatuation of the people contributed to reduce them.

It is well known to be no unusual exclamation among those avowedly partial to republican innovation, that they have no object but to preserve an administration upon *revolution principles*; whereas to the credit of *these*, they know they can have no claim; for their favorite tenets indisputably incline to overthrow that system, which we will allow assisted in establishing the present forms of government. And first, the principles of the revolution are discoverable in the support of our established church. Now, any approach to hierarchy, we know, entirely militates



litudes with the religious tenets of the republican. Again, these principles oppose the errors of another church, whose doctrines tend to endanger the liberty of the subject, and the purity of government. They also secure the just rights and prerogative of the crown, and the due exercise of its executive authority; and that, by so nice a balance of the three branches that compose the legislature, that the abolition of either would be an infringement of the constitution, if not its total overthrow. We may fairly conclude, therefore, that the party here described, cannot sincerely espouse this division of these principles; and that such an union and dependance, as is here specified, must be quite incompatible with the ideas and hopes of any advocate for republicanism; although they artfully endeavour to conceal their principles and designs by an adoption of terms, which they must *de toto* disclaim, if they will be candid and open in the confession of their *real creed*. But this is a device, obviously founded in political contrivance, insensibly to attract and entrap the warm, indiscriminating, and unwary; by plausible declamations

tions in favor of liberty, which is known to have a charm over an English temper.

On the contrary, so far from being friends to the true principles of the Revolution, their system holds forth the ill-founded advantages of an untable, miserable oligarchy; a system, from abundantly evident causes, continually prone to imperfection and disorder, generally containing *many* tyrants, instead of one, and subject, from its very structure, to perhaps the worst evils that is to be found in any other mode of government whatever. This might be illustrated (did time or place admit of it) in the examples of several states, of both antient and modern date, which have degenerated into this form, previous to their becoming finally a prey to some neighbouring power; or which were originally limbs of a larger body, disunited in consequence of important and decisive contests between considerable kingdoms, within whose government they were included; or their sudden and uncertain existence might be owing to some intestine political disorder, which favored the model of a legislature, so repugnant to the true spirit of the English constitution.

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Exceptions,

Exceptions, I am aware, may be advanced, to this general assertion, in defence of some particular and famous states, which have borne the title of Republics; but even some of these are amenable to my description; and were we diligently and equally to investigate their growth, and trace the causes of their decline, we should probably find the latter more owing to the defects in their original birth, (which could not furnish strength for an accession of empire beyond a certain portion) and to the pernicious divisions in their counsels, than the zenith of their prosperity and fame could justly be ascribed to any intrinsic value in the form of government. The universal prejudice in favour of arms, the necessity of it, indeed, during that æra of the world, and the astonishing influence of an adequate education, would be found, upon close enquiry, to have chiefly assisted the rapid prowess, for which some of them were renowned.

If ever, therefore, it should please God to suffer us to be swallowed up by some extensive and superior Power, in punishment for our manifold sins and ingratitude, we may venture to pronounce the fatal visitation

Exceptions

to

to be impending, whenever we shall be so unfortunate as to see the component parts of our exquisite constitution dissolved, or disunited; and that we degenerate into any other form of government than the present.

Infinite are the ways by which the Almighty can effect his holy purposes, but without presumption we may venture to affirm, that such a revolution would probably be the awakening instrument of our downfall.

It is wide of my inclination to enter into any depths of political disquisition; and lest it may be thought I have made too long a digression, I would excuse myself by an humble submission, whether an impartial detail of such possible events as are inseparably connected with the body of the subject, may not tend to raise a proper sense of our happy situation, by reminding us of the storm that threatened, and thereby exalt the fervor of our grateful oblations for the undeserved mercies we have received. Under this idea, I am induced to give you a faint outline of the evils that might have befallen us. To bestow the strongest coloring the portrait might bear, would be exceptionable



on many accounts : I shall, therefore, retire from so disgusting a task, and only interweave some casual observations, which unavoidably present themselves in contemplating the scene before us.

Daily experience too powerfully evinces, that it is an unfavorable characteristic of man's inconsiderateness, and ingratitude, that he is often totally insensible to the riches of the blessings he enjoys, till roused, by their sudden loss, into a thorough sense of the benefits he once possessed.

The irresistible reflection that offers itself to our minds, upon a supposition that the late most unlooked-for attempt, on the precious life of our gracious Sovereign, had been attended with *fatal* effects, illustrates the above censure, by placing the consequent situation of public affairs in so serious a light, and introducing such a weight of possible calamity to our thoughts, that, as members of the community, and actuated by the powerful principles of self-interest, the risk to our repose and happiness subjects us to the feelings the loss would have created, and at the same time necessarily impels us to exult at the escape. For it must  
be



be allowed no exaggerated hypothesis to conceive, that the ferment of party, which has scarce subsided, might have broken out with that unhappy inveteracy and resentment attendant upon fancied, no less than real wrongs, as to have produced universal commotion, and embroiled the land in difficulties, too serious to admit description.

Doubtless, every means would have been engaged to depreciate the wise, patriotic, and strenuous measures, *now* adopted to heal the wounds of the country; and the injury its finances have received, through the ill-judged counsels, and worse conducted expeditions, fabricated by those who probably would have borne a temporary sway in the management of the state. A character of apparent preference would have been loudly extolled upon equivocal taxes; for that these contributions *must* be levied, in whatever hands the reins are trusted, is *positively unavoidable*. If an exhausted treasury is to be replenished, if the public credit is to be restored, perfectly immaterial is it what articles distinguish them, if they are *productive*; for it is uncontrovertible, spite of all the delusive and perplexing tricks of sophistry,

phistry, that, ultimately, the burthen is divided amongst the public, and the subscription becomes just and equal; no particular denomination can be aggrieved, or need to be excepted, because they hold the prevention in their own hands.

Still, however wholesome the remedy, it is undeniably irksome; for it requires the utmost resolution to effect the recovery, even of a private fortune, and to adopt the mortifying habits of sudden and rigid œconomy. And as it is the nature of all men, living by their own labor and industry, to wish to get all they can, and to be unwilling to spare any thing from their profits, but immediately upon themselves; so the multitude, not attending to the necessity of the exertion required, ever have, and ever will be clamorous, upon new levies being raised; not considering how fatal might be the disorder, if a timely cure was not prescribed; and how much more seriously the property of every individual would be affected, in consequence of a relaxation to restore the sinews of government:—whereas, if each private subject would but exercise the plainest judgment, and consider the relation in which he stands to the vast body of which  
he

he is a member, he would soon be convinced, of what is the actual fact, that by subscribing his quota to the exigencies of his country, he is only acting a prudent part of a good subject ; he is doing no more than what is incumbent upon every relation of a family, interested in its credit and prosperity.

To the character of the most brilliant talents, sound learning, and intense application, we may justly join, in the person of the present Prime Minister, the merit of the most exemplary integrity, unrivalled disinterestedness, and an innate and genuine zeal for his country's good. To this may as truly be added, the praise he deserves for an efficient œconomy, and the benefits he *has* procured, and is deriving to the state, by the sagacious, extensive, and profitable plans continually meditating to recruit its treasures, and reinstate its glory. I cannot close this just eulogium of his character, without noticing his fortitude in supporting and enforcing the measures of administration ; and paying that respectful tribute to a purity of manners, exemplified in early and uniform practice. But, alas ! so deplorable is the degeneracy of the age, that to mention what

should constitute the brightest ornament of our nature, and what must especially dignify an exalted station, is too frequently turned into illiberal jest, or treated with foul derision.

I must not quit this theme without reminding you, that it should afford matter of united gratulation, upon this view of the present Ministry, that it is strengthened by the additional support of as substantial attainments, as penetrating a genius, as profound judgment, and as active and indefatigable perseverance, as human abilities can reach; — but I am restrained from being further *personal* in the merits which might be extended in this assertion, from A PECULIAR DELICACY OF SITUATION.

It would be harsh to attribute to premeditated guilt the hazards such men as these have been exposed to in their persons, and the unbecoming indignities cast upon their reputation; we must resolve them more charitably into the general depravity and unbounded licentiousness of our manners; we must console ourselves, that the hand of Heaven hath hitherto preserved its estimable instruments,



instruments, who are assisting in alleviating the sorrows the country has received.

But further, from the experienced audacity of a disappointed party, in spreading wiles to deceive one of the highest titles in the kingdom; to sow the seeds of dissension between persons, whom the nearest ties of consanguinity should naturally unite by bonds of reciprocal affection; and, from selfish policy, to hold out fallacious arguments, that finally might endanger, if not annul, the very interests of inheritance;—from such sinister experiments as these, we might have had reason for fear, lest the Machiavilian subtlety of men hacknied in the arts of deception, assisted by force of genius, and a deep knowledge of human nature, might not have triumphed over the genuine candor, approved generosity of temper, and unguarded openness and warmth of sentiment, which particularly distinguish a great mind in its entrance upon the world, and expose it to more danger, in proportion as it is endued with sincerity in its friendly attachments, which is an ennobling distinction in the character alluded to:—If, I say, there did not exist a basis of solid virtue in the composition

position of this high character, and the dismal catastrophe had been permitted, there is nothing discordant that might not have been dreaded in its consequence. But the recent proof of the most heroic self-denial, the pious assent to the dictates of superior judgment, and the unprecedented example of an immediate and judicious œconomy, are all such signal marks of magnanimity, as to give us the surest hope of an illustrious and blessed succession, whenever, in the course of nature, that event shall happen.— It fondly reminds us of a favorite hero in our history, whose transition from gaiety to glory is no less admirable, than his joint respect to the sentence of the sovereign, and the laws he was in future to dispense. But this happy disposition should seem a natural effect in the object of our future loyalty; for, though the observation does not always hold, it is a natural expectancy to find some qualities in the progeny that is inherent in the Sire; and, unless the most unfortunate deviation should contradict the ordinary course of things, the most sanguine hopes may be encouraged of one so happily descended in *both relations*, in whom every  
social

social virtue, the most extensive benevolence, and amiable condescension, are so eminently united.

But amidst the just detail of every public evil that might have happened, shall we neglect the melancholy relation of domestic woe? Far short of its real state will be the description of so sad a scene; for never yet could language paint the oppressive grief, the disconsolate suggestions, the silent agonies of a wife's distress, or mother's sorrow. None possibly can *conceive* them, but those whose pure engagements, and endearing pledges, enable them to anticipate distant sorrows:—or the sympathising witness of the stricken sufferer may form some slender notion of them; but they alone, whom sad experience has visited with the bitter draught, can fully estimate such complicated misery.—In such an assembly, *some* must have deeply felt the truth of this.

If private troubles, then, can furnish us with such a dreary picture; if, in the intricate list of the afflictions to which the happiest state is subject, we find nothing more productive of just regret and heavy lamentation, than the removal of a parent from us,  
what

what an accession of despondency must have marked the lot of the Royal Mourners, from the important consideration of their rank, had such an irreparable loss befallen them ! The suitable provision, and the future happy alliances of a numerous and beautiful offspring, are interests of such a magnitude, that nothing but the qualified judgment and anxious affection of a father could safely manage. And if the power of words falls short in giving these concerns their due effect, how shall we express the feelings which irresistibly invade us, on contemplating the high and respected Object of such insupportable grief, whose long and unremitted testimony of the most benevolent attachment to her people, has so firmly established proportionable admiration and regard in all our hearts!—The undertaking is of too interesting a nature—and in the room of such a painful effort, let sorrow give way to joy ; let us avail ourselves of the sudden and happy transition of surprize Her Majesty experienced in the Royal Safety ; let us unite in grateful boast, that no throne in Europe can vie with ours in the rare assemblage of amiable and useful virtues.

Having



Having now acquitted myself in the detail of those interesting and leading particulars, which I trust are aptly introductory to the original intention of this discourse, I proceed to enlarge upon the text.

To us, whose belief in the Deity is not only founded in the evidence of rational observation, but confirmed by scriptural testimony, there needs no arguments at this time to establish a faith in the superintending influence of the Supreme Being. It must be obvious to the assent of every unprejudiced mind, that the God who made the world, still preserves and governs it; and that nothing happens in it but with his permission, we have powerful conviction from the word of his own Spirit, as declared by the Second Person in the ever-adorable Trinity, our holy Redeemer himself, when, in the strongest figure that can confirm the universality and minuteness of his inspection, it is affirmed, "that not a sparrow falls" without Divine concurrence. If, then, what is seemingly of the most insignificant import does not elude the notice of Infinite Wisdom, much surer may we conclude, that the fate of empires interests his direction.

direction. The doubt is solved by the immediate question of our blessed Lord, "Are ye not of more worth than many sparrows?"—If the *hearts of kings* are in his rule and governance, doubtless, their *persons* are proportionably instrumental to his holy purposes, and demand his care and interposition for their welfare.

But farther, if we have cause to believe that the protection of good men in general, engages the regard of the universal Parent of Creation, we may justly argue, that the persons of upright kings are peculiarly his care, as being raised by his unerring will to posts of more importance in their charge, than what falls to the lot of the common rank of his creatures. Of this we have abundant proof in holy writ: it will be sufficient to select a few passages to the purpose. "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm," is an injunction to be found in the first book of Chronicles, chap. xvi. ver. 22. and refers particularly to those upon whom the Almighty professes to bestow an extraordinary degree of favor and attention. This is shewn in the persons of David, Solomon, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, at all

all times, when their deportment received the sanction of divine approbation; and in the most singular and miraculous instances, as their respective histories largely demonstrate. And still farther to corroborate that the sacred office of the Sovereign, was frequently the professed object of divine regard, we see it extended in the persons of several heathen monarchs, who acted up to the light they had received; and by their humble assent to the partial evidences the Almighty was pleased to vouchsafe them, became instrumental by their virtues, to the furtherance of his gracious designs: among these, we have a pointed instance in the person of Cyrus, king of Persia.

Besides, that good Kings should experience the reward of heavenly protection, is perfectly consonant with our notions of the divine attributes, and corresponds with these frequent declarations of the fact. “For  
“mercy and truth uphold the king and his  
“throne\*.”—“He sheweth mercy unto his  
“anointed by *great deliverance*, and to  
“David and his seed for evermore†.”

\* Prov. xx. 28.

† Psal. xviii. 50.

But

But I will endeavor to establish the doctrine of my text by a still closer examination of the case before us, that we may better estimate the value of the deliverance, and be moved to ascribe becoming praise, that we may fully evince our belief of the position, "Now know I that the Lord saveth his anointed."

Whether, then, the unhappy person, whose attempt was thus providentially frustrated, embarked in the horrid purpose, from an impulse of frenzy, which has proved to be the case, or (which I have shewn myself unwilling to suppose) was so far deserted by God, as to present a fit object for the vile act, in the flagitious counsels of some undiscovered plot, it is certain, that in either case, the danger to which our Sovereign was exposed, is no ways diminished: the immediate intent was murderous; and a blow effected under *either* influence might have proved mortal, and involved us equally in inexpressible misfortunes.

We must attribute the happy escape, then, to the watchful arm of the Lord, by averting the direction of the blow; by permitting a saving



a saving presence of mind to take place; by over-ruling the power of the evil spirit.

It is also manifest from an enquiry into the further particulars of the event, “ that  
 “ no king is saved by the multitude of an  
 “ host;” the truth of which text is clearly evinced by the merciful intervention of a saving Providence: for it does not appear, that the offender met with any interruption in her approach to the attack; and though it may not be improper to suggest upon this remark, that however indisputable the doctrine of the text, and that nought can divert the decrees of Omnipotence, yet it no ways derogates from a proper trust in God, to employ all the becoming means of human safeguard; which, besides the authority which reason lends it, is recommended by the long established custom of princes of all ages, and of every description; and is most positively enjoined in the second book of Kings, chap. ii. ver. 8. in these words:  
 “ And thou shalt compass the king round  
 “ about, every man with his weapons in his  
 “ hand; and he that cometh within the  
 “ ranks, let him be slain; and be ye with  
 “ the king at his going out, and at his  
 from C “ coming

“coming in :” a stronger proof cannot be required of the human respect due to the sacred office. But in this quotation, we are supplied with a pleasing opportunity of accounting for the custom of dispensing with parade, in the attendance of our Royal Master: the most endearing cause presents itself, that, perhaps, the human mind is capable of conceiving; and cannot fail of binding every grateful subject more nearly in affection to his person. It is a test of *pater-nal confidence*, the most amiable and enlarged, that can be instanced; and flatters the general sentiments of the people, no less than it dignifies the nature of their Ruler: a practice that I apprehend will find a precedent but in few other countries. Yet, as before observed, from the marvellous escape we are now celebrating, it points out the expediency of future caution, and the employment of due and justifiable security.

In honor of God's promises, the truth of which might be defended by a thousand texts, it is an unexceptionable conclusion to infer, that an early love of virtue, an unsullied attachment to her dictates, in all her ways, and an invariable perseverance in the  
most

most important duties of life, will insure blessings from heaven, will invite a more than ordinary protection; and, if time allowed, sufficient proof of a more private nature might be adduced, to assert the preventing favor of heaven, in preserving from accident the life of our King. Traits of the more amiable and domestic qualities, though seldom conspicuous in potentates, (whose elevated rank is inimical to their culture, and so very hazardous to virtuous inclination, their best designs being often controled by obstacles inseparable from their situation) must still be allowed the noblest subjects of emulation. To illustrate this observation, I shall close what I have to say upon the subject, with one more circumstance, that calls for our highest admiration—it is the matchless deportment of the Sovereign, upon this sudden and exasperating attack.

It is no easy attempt, deservedly to celebrate the excellence of temper, with which this cruel insult was received. The undaunted composure, the Christian forbearance, the compassionate commands, on one hand, and the extreme caution and mercy in

the legislature, on the other, baffle all my powers which most to extol.

If we turn our eyes to the spirit and practice of neighbouring kingdoms, what an odious extreme is discernible in the comparison.—The bare suspicion of a design upon the life of the Monarch, would expose the party to the *question*; that is, an enquiry exacted by insupportable torture, into the cause of the crime, the accomplices, and every thing relative to the interest of the state.—Should the wretched object be instigated to the perpetration of the shocking purpose, by the dictates of a distempered brain, as in the case before us; only imagine the additional misery to natural misfortune, to have a false confession extorted by means of *pain*. Can any one but shudder at the idea of madness, exasperated by torment, and guilt established by such inhuman engines? Do but reflect upon the horrors of a foreign prison only: so replete with barbarous variety, that the pen of the historian has been employed in the melancholy picture: and, as the most pleasing transition, because substantial, let us revert, with grateful praise, unto the very different



different establishment of this happy country, WHERE HUMANITY AND JUSTICE GO HAND IN HAND, WHERE THE SOVEREIGN IS TRULY A FATHER TO HIS PEOPLE.

To conclude:—let this singular mercy, with which we have been lately visited, and the hourly private, and unmerited bounties we receive from a gracious and long-suffering Lord, strike home upon our hearts, and animate them with a sense of profoundest gratitude: for if love does not awaken duty in us, nothing will. Let the recollection of God's great mercy, and our own foul unworthiness, operate to the amendment of our ways; then shall we prevail upon him to continue his blessings unto us.

By this present humble act of praise, we have paid our joint tribute of gratulation with the rest of our fellow-subjects throughout the realm, for the marvellous preservation of his Majesty's life. Let us add our hearty prayers, that he may be long blessed with life, and health, to reign over these kingdoms, in prosperity and glory; and this we may confidently hope for, unless our increasing wickedness should avert the blessing.

Finally,

Finally, from the repeated instances of a saving Providence waiting upon the person of our Sovereign, and from his pious and grateful returns to Almighty God for the same, we may justly adopt the words of the Psalmist, and exclaim, "The king shall joy  
 "in thy strength, O Lord, and in thy sal-  
 "vation how greatly shall he rejoice:—for  
 "the king trusteth in the Lord \*."

Now to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, be ascribed, as is most due, all power, majesty, and praise, now and for ever. Amen.

\* Psal. xxi. 1, 7.

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